

## Well-Being



*An eighteen-year-old former foster child had been in care for several years. She and her four siblings were removed from their home during a midnight police raid of their parents home where Methamphetamine was being manufactured. In foster care, the teen was able to focus on her studies without the chaos that was ever-present in her home. With a support system of foster parents, professionals and friends, the resilient youngster maintained a 3.0 or higher GPA throughout school. She also attended an Independent Living Services (ILS) Program that helped her make the transition from foster care to living on her own. She said of the program, "they have taught me things like how to balance a check-book, what to do in emergencies ...I also learned a lot about boundaries with other people and healthy relationships." She went on to say that as a result of ILS she was confident moving out on her own saying, "...future goals in mind, I know I will succeed."*

### Objective: Children in placement are supported in age-appropriate educational and developmental programs

Measured by: Youth in care who receive Independent Living Services

Every year thousands of young adults "age out" of our nation's child welfare systems and become members of the greater community. About 300 of those youth are from Washington state.

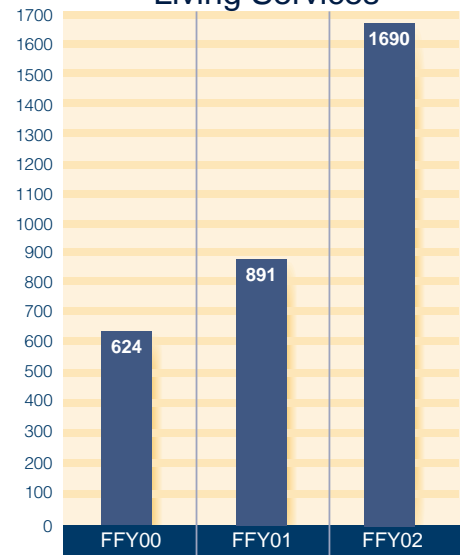
Their success or failure often hinges on the resources and support afforded them prior to and following their exit from the foster care system.

In 1999 the federal government passed the *Chafee Foster Care Independence Act* in an effort to help young adults avoid the homelessness, incarceration and unwanted pregnancy that often follows a life in foster care.

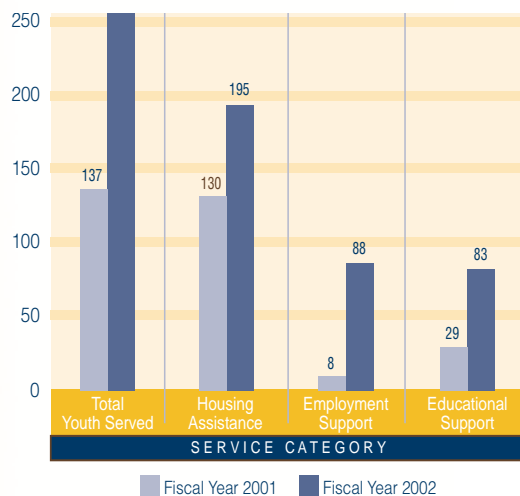
Through Chafee, states are able to receive additional funding to assist young people in the transition from foster care to independence through help with housing, education, employment and social services.

Since tracking began in federal fiscal year 2000, Independent Living Services in Washington state have increased dramatically. CA provided contracted services to 624, 16-18 year-old young adults in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000 and that number increased to 1,690 in FFY 2002.

**Youth (Age 16-18) Served in Independent Living Services**



**Independent Living Transition Services Provided to Former Foster Youth (Ages 18-21)**



In addition, the administration provides contracted Transitional Living Services to former foster youth ages 18-21.

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Performance Report, 2003**

Youth served may have received services in more than one service category, thus the sum total of youth served in each category will exceed the sum of all youth served in the "Total" columns.